

PENNSYLVANIA---The Quaker State.
PLAN OF CERTAIN PURITANS OF NEW ENGLAND TO
PREVENT ITS SETTLEMENT BY WILLIAM PENN.

COLLATED FOR THE ATHENS GLEANER,
BY S. HAYDEN.

In my last number of historic notes for the Gleaner, I gave an explanation, from unquestionable authority, how Pennsylvania obtained the name of the *Keystone State*. It had some time before that been called in common parlance "the *Quaker State*," in allusion to its founder, William Penn, who with most of his associates in its settlement and organization, were Quakers.

It is well known in history, that this peace-leaving sect was persecuted in England equally with the Puritans, both of whom were Dissenters from the forms of religion established there by loyal enactments, and both also sought the wilds of America, as an asylum where they might enjoy unmolested their own peculiar forms of worship. The settlement of the Puritans of New England had preceded the Quaker settlement of Pennsylvania, about sixty years, and no favors had been shown by the Pilgrim Fathers of 1620 to any incomers among them who were not of their household of religious faith. Quakerism was with them a heresy which they had refused to tolerate.

The following account of the alarm some of the Puritan Fathers felt, when they learned of the contemplated colony of Quakers that were coming with William Penn, in 1681, to establish themselves on the Delaware, has recently for the first time been published. We desire to give it a place in the Gleaner, as a new item in events that pertain to the history of our State.

Mr. JUDKINS, the Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in overhauling a chest of old papers deposited in the archives of that body by the late Robert Greenleaf, of Malden, has recently made a discovery of especial interest for the people of Pennsylvania. Among the papers was one which bore this endorsement: "*Ye scheme to bagge Penne.*" This curious title attracted the attention of Mr. Judkins, and he examined the document. It is in the familiar and quaint handwriting of Rev. Cotton Mather, and is addressed to "Ye aged and beloved Mr. John Higginston." It bears date "September ye 15th, 1762*", and reads thus, (the odd spelling of the original being followed to the letter:)

"There be now at sea a shippe (for our friend Mr. Esaias Holcroft of London did advise me by the last packet that it wolde sail some time in August) called ye Welcome, R. Greenway master, which has aboard a hundred or more of ye heretics or malignants called Quakers with W. Penne who is ye Chief Scampe at ye hedde of them. Ye General Court has accordingly given secret orders to Master Malachi Huxett of ye brig Porposse to waylaye ye said Welcome slylie as near ye coast of Codde as may be and make captive ye said Penne and his ungodlie crew so that ye Lord may be glorified and not mocked on ye soil of this new countree with ye heathen worshippe of these people. Much spoyle can be made by selling ye whole lotte to Barbadoe: where slaves fetch goode prices in rumme and sugar and ye shall not only do ye Lord great service by punishing ye wecked but we shall make great gayne for his ministers and people. Master Huxett feels hopeful and I will set down the news he brings when his shippe comes back.

"Yours in ye bowels of Christ,

"COTTON MATHER."

*Note. The date, "1762," is evidently a misprint of three out of four figures, and shows how, by carelessness, even "figures" may "lie"---or the letter is a fabrication, like some of the pretended "Blue Laws." We are inclined to think it genuine, as it is not wholly new in substance. It would be curious to speculate upon the probable character of our State, had William of the Broad-Brim been sent, Joseph-like, down into the West India fields, in a day when Slavery and Rum were both much more popular than they now are. EDITOR.

11 11

11 11 •

APPENDIX A

A LETTER SAID TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY COTTON MATHER, SHOWN TO BE A MISERABLE FORGERY

AT a meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, held in Boston on Thursday, March 12, 1908, Hon. SAMUEL A. GREEN read the following paper:

"Nearly forty years ago, at the meeting of this Society in June, 1870 (Proceedings, XI, 328, 329), I had occasion to speak of a forged letter which was said to have been written by Cotton Mather, and supposed to be among the manuscripts in this Library. The letter, dated 'September ye 15th, 1682,' was published first in the Easton (Penn.) Argus of April 28, 1870, and was widely copied into other newspapers. It was signed 'Cotton Mather,' and purported to give the details of 'a scheme to bagge Penne,' on the part of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay. In an accompanying statement it is said that the letter was found by 'Mr. Judkins, the Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in overhauling a chest of old papers deposited in the archives of that body by the late Robert Greenleaf, of Malden.'

"In the interest of historical truth and in order to give an official denial to the story, at that meeting as Librarian I pronounced the letter a miserable forgery. The name of Mr. Judkins was utterly unknown at the Library; no such chest of old papers as is alleged to have been deposited here was ever received, and no such person as the one said to have made the deposit was known to the members. Evidently the story was started for the express purpose to deceive the public and to create a prejudice against the early founders of New England.

"The letter, which was addressed to the Rev. John Higginson, of Salem, is as follows: —

BOSTON, September ye 15th, 1682.

TO YE AGED AND BELOVED JOHN HIGGINSON.

There bee now at sea a shippe (for our friend Mr. Esaias Holcroft of London did advise me by the last packet that it wolde sail some time in August) called ye Welcome, R. Greenaway master, which has aboard an hundred or more of ye heretics and malignants called Quakers, with W. Penne, who is ye Chief Scampe at ye hedde of them. Ye General Court has accordingly given secret orders to Master Malachi Huxett of ye brig Porposse to waylaye ye said Welcome slylie as near ye coast of Codde as may be and make captive ye said Penne and his ungodlie crew so that ye Lord may be glorified and not mocked on ye soil of this new

APR 13 1944

LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

I am writing to you in regard to the
information that you have received from
the Census Bureau regarding the
census of 1940.

I am writing to you in regard to the
information that you have received from
the Census Bureau regarding the
census of 1940. I am writing to you
in regard to the information that you
have received from the Census Bureau
regarding the census of 1940. I am
writing to you in regard to the
information that you have received from
the Census Bureau regarding the census
of 1940. I am writing to you in
regard to the information that you
have received from the Census Bureau
regarding the census of 1940.

I am writing to you in regard to the
information that you have received from
the Census Bureau regarding the census
of 1940. I am writing to you in
regard to the information that you
have received from the Census Bureau
regarding the census of 1940. I am
writing to you in regard to the
information that you have received from
the Census Bureau regarding the census
of 1940. I am writing to you in
regard to the information that you
have received from the Census Bureau
regarding the census of 1940.

I am writing to you in regard to the
information that you have received from
the Census Bureau regarding the census
of 1940. I am writing to you in
regard to the information that you
have received from the Census Bureau
regarding the census of 1940. I am
writing to you in regard to the
information that you have received from
the Census Bureau regarding the census
of 1940. I am writing to you in
regard to the information that you
have received from the Census Bureau
regarding the census of 1940.

countrie with ye heathen worshippe of these people. Much spoyle can be made by selling ye whole lotte to Barbadoes, where slaves fetch goode prices in rumme and sugar and we shall not only do ye Lord great service by punishing ye wicked but we shall make great gayne for his ministers and people. Master Huxett feels hopeful and I will set down the news he brings when his shippe comes back.

Yours in ye bowells of Christ.

COTTON MATHER.

"This spurious production appears periodically in the public prints, and often has been exposed as a miserable forgery, but it will not *down*. Like a planet it seems to have an orbit of its own in which it moves, and at regular intervals is printed in the newspapers. At the time of its date Mather was only nineteen years old, which fact alone would be presumptive evidence that he was not connected with any such piratical scheme. There are other ear-marks in the letter which tell against its authenticity. The word 'scampe' was not in use two hundred years ago, and Mather would never have used the phrase 'ye coast of Codde.' The name of the Cape was given by Gosnold, and no one in this neighborhood ever called it anything else but 'Cape Cod.' The old Puritan minister was a scholar and, according to the standard of his day and generation, he knew how to spell, and never would have been guilty of the foolish orthography there used. Moreover the writer's subscription alone would be enough to condemn the letter. Mather had sins enough of his own to answer for without ascribing to him the crude absurdities of this forgery. In every community there is a certain number of persons always ready to adopt opinions which are in accord with their own feelings. The instances are frequent where evil-minded men have thus played upon the credulity of the public and so started false reports and gross slanders.

"The letter has been reprinted so often, and I am called upon so frequently to answer questions concerning it, that I set about tracing the origin of the story to its source. After some correspondence I found that it was written by the late James F. Shunk, at one time editor of the *Easton Argus*, in the columns of which it originally appeared during his connection with the newspaper. He was a man of distinguished ancestry, — his two grandfathers having been governors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, — but with a strong prejudice against the Puritans. The letter was written in a spirit of hostility to New England people; and it was evidently the writer's intention to throw discredit on them, and to a certain extent he was successful. Mr. Shunk, the author of the forgery, died in 1874, at the age of thirty-six years." (From the *Mass. Hist. Soc. Proc.*, third series, vol. i, 1907-1908, pp. 407-409.)

[**MATHER, COTTON, FORGERY OF**]. **HAYDEN, S.** *Pennsylvania—The Quaker & Certain Puritans of New-England to prevent its settlement by William Penn. Collated by Gleaner. By S. Hayden.* Tall, thin folio single sheet printer's proof, 13 3/8 x 4 3/8". Pennsylvania, 187-?].

Printer's proof with corrections. Supposedly written by Cotton Mather in an attempt "to bagge Penne," this forged letter of September 15, 1682, was proved to have been authored by James F. Shunk, of the *Easton Argus*. Shunk had a strong prefudice against the Puritans. "This spurious production appears periodically in the public prints, and often has been exposed as a miserable forger, but it will not *down*. Like a planet it seems to have an orbit of its own in which it moves..."-Holmes, **Cotton Mather** III, Appendix A, pp. 1299-1300. 77026

